

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed November 20, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 14, 17, and 18 are amended. No claims have been cancelled, withdrawn, or added. Therefore, claims 1-31 are presented for examination.

Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-14, 17, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,735 issued to Ganesan. Ganesan discusses a standard public key encryption system, which uses symmetric session crypto-keys between users of virtual area networks. The portion referenced by the Examiner, column 8, lines 14-34 discuss how the crypto keys (public private key pair) are created. The Examiner points to this section for a "record ID" however, the only reference to ID that the APplicant could find in this reference is the reference to "photo IDs" issued by the Security department. Applicants otherwise fail to discern any reference to a record ID, in Ganesan. Ganesan does not teach or suggest "determining if the user's authentication data matches the record ID" as recited in claim 1. In fact, Ganesan does not address the use of record IDs during the authentication process at all. Therefore, claim 1, and claims 2-13 which depend on it, are not anticipated by Ganesan.

Similarly, claim 14 recites in part:

looking up a record ID associated with the user;
generating a one-time key and encrypting the one-time key with a
public key of the user, and sending the encrypted one-time key and the record
ID to the user;

Ganesan does not teach or suggest looking up a record ID associated with the user. Therefore, claim 14, and claims 15 and 16 which depend on it, are not anticipated by Ganesan.

Claim 17, as amended, recites in part "an authentication server to receive a record ID for a user, and a one-time key generated by a third party server and encrypted with a user's public key by the third party server." As noted above, Ganesan does not teach or suggest a record ID for a user, being involved in the authentication process. Therefore, claim 17, and claims 18-31 which depend on it, are not anticipated by Ganesan.

Examiner rejected claims 2-4 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,735 issued to Ganesan and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,233,685 issued to Smith, et al. Smith discusses a system in which hardware randomness is used to generate authentication secrets. The system of Smith does not use record IDs, but rather uses conventional cryptography based on hardware data. However, Smith does not cure the shortcomings of Ganesan, discussed above. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 20-22 are not obvious over Ganesan in view of Smith.

Examiner rejected claims 7, 10, 25 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,735 issued to Ganesan and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,581,161 issued to Byford. Byford discusses the use of a portable communicating device (i.e. smart card) and providing controlled access to a facility. Byford does not teach or suggest using a record ID for authentication within a public key system. Therefore, Byford does not cure the shortcomings of Ganesan. Thus, claims 7, 10, 25 and 28 are not obvious over Ganesan in view of Byford.

Examiner rejected claims 15, 16, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,735 issued to Ganesan and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,692,106 issued to Towers, et al. Towers discusses fault diagnosis and service installation systems in a computer system, using an inference engine. However, Towers does not discuss the use of record IDs in the context of authentication within a public key system. Therefore, Towers does not cure the shortcomings of Ganesan. Thus, claims 15, 16, 18, and 21 are not obvious over Ganesan in view of Towers.

Examiner rejected claims 2-4 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,735 issued to Ganesan and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,227 issued to Mao. Mao discusses an authentication by an intermediary. However, Mao does not teach or suggest the use of record IDs in the context of authentication within a public key system. Therefore, Mao does not cure the shortcomings of Ganesan. Thus, claims 2-4 and 20-22 are not obvious over Ganesan in view of Mao.

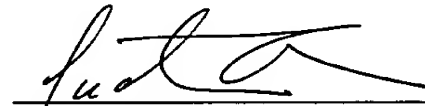
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Judith A. Szepesi at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3/22 2004



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